

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 5:30 pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Shawn Brophy

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation
Daryl Myers, Director of Public Works

Also Present: Gallery via Zoom

Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 5:32pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Budget Deliberations

Mrs. Duggan provided the Committee with an overview of the budget for the 2022/23 fiscal year. Councillors were provided with the opportunity to ask questions while Mrs. Duggan went through the budget page by page, as well as after the entire document had been reviewed.

Discussion followed regarding a recommendation to increase the eligible household income threshold to \$33,000, and to increase the tax deduction amount to \$300. Warden McCarron provided information about the provincial low-income senior's program as well.

Councillor McNamara raised a question regarding the residential tax rate and asked if there was any chance to lower the rate by 2 cents, considering higher gas prices and inflation. Warden McCarron reviewed several items that have increased in this budget, including mandatory expenses (police, education), insurance, and fuel, and how the increase assessments have protected the municipality from having to look at increasing the tax rate. Discussion followed. A roundtable of Council was done, and the rest of Council felt that maintaining the rate at 88 cents was the best approach to proceed with for various reasons, including the unknown costs of fuel in the next year. The residential tax rate has held steady for 15 years.

Warden and Council thanked Allison Duggan, Director of Finance, and her team for the work done to prepare the budget. Mr. Horne thanked Mrs. Duggan and the Senior Leadership Team for all their contributions in reviewing the budget over the last several months. He also thanked Council for their work throughout the year in providing feedback. Friday July 8th, 2022 will be the tax due date, and no change in interest rate is proposed.

Mr. Horne reviewed a tender for 1 tonne truck and brought a recommendation to the Committee to accept the tender bid from MacDonald Chrysler.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the low-income property tax exemption policy be amended to increase the eligible household income threshold to \$33,000 and tax deduction amount to \$300.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the tender for a new 1 tonne truck be awarded to MacDonald Chrysler for \$82,647.09 + HST.

Motion Carried


Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Adjournment

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 6:24pm.

Motion Carried



Warden Owen McCarron



Glenn Horne, CAO